

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Sassoferrato, and Fra Menendo, who had been nominated Urbanist Bishop of Cordova.¹ Raimondo had been his personal friend, but, nevertheless, through the Cardinal's influence, the entry into France was now as closed to him on the Spanish side as it had been before from Provence.

Raimondo remained at Genoa, preaching an Urbanist crusade, and acting as provincial of the province of Lombardy. He wrote to Catherine, pleading with her not to judge him by her own standard, and imploring her not to love him less because he had faded her again. The Saint answers as though she herself had fallen short in love and faith, and been an instrument to spoil God's work by lack of confidence in Him. As to the special love and special faith that binds us to a most dear friend, we must never believe or imagine that such a friend wills aught save our good ; and nothing whatever, " neither word of creatures, nor illusion of the devil, nor change of place," must diminish this pure trust which comes from love. Therefore, Raimondo's fears, " lest the affection and charity I bear you be diminished in me," come from his own imperfection in love and faith; but she does not conceal her bitter disappointment that he has found means of casting to earth the burden laid upon him : "If you had been faithful, you would not have had all this hesitation, nor yielded to doubts about God and about me, wretched woman ; but, like a faithful son, ready for obedience, you would have gone, and done what had been possible. And if you had not been able to go upright, you would have gone crawling ; if you could not go as a friar, you would have gone as a pilgrim ; if you had no money, you would have gone on alms. This faithful obedience would have wrought more in the sight of God, and in the hearts of men, than all human prudence would do. My sins have prevented me from seeing this in you, but I am quite certain that, in spite of natural shrinking, you, nevertheless, had and have a good, holy intention, and the desire better to fulfil the will of God and that of Christ on earth, Pope Urban VI." ^{tc} I wish by all means that you had gone; nevertheless, I ¹ Cf. Sorbelli, *op. cit.*, pp. 18, 19.